

Estimating population trends for landbirds in Alaska from 1993-2002

Colleen Handel

U.S. Geological Survey - Alaska Science Center, Biological Sciences Office

Steve Matsuoka

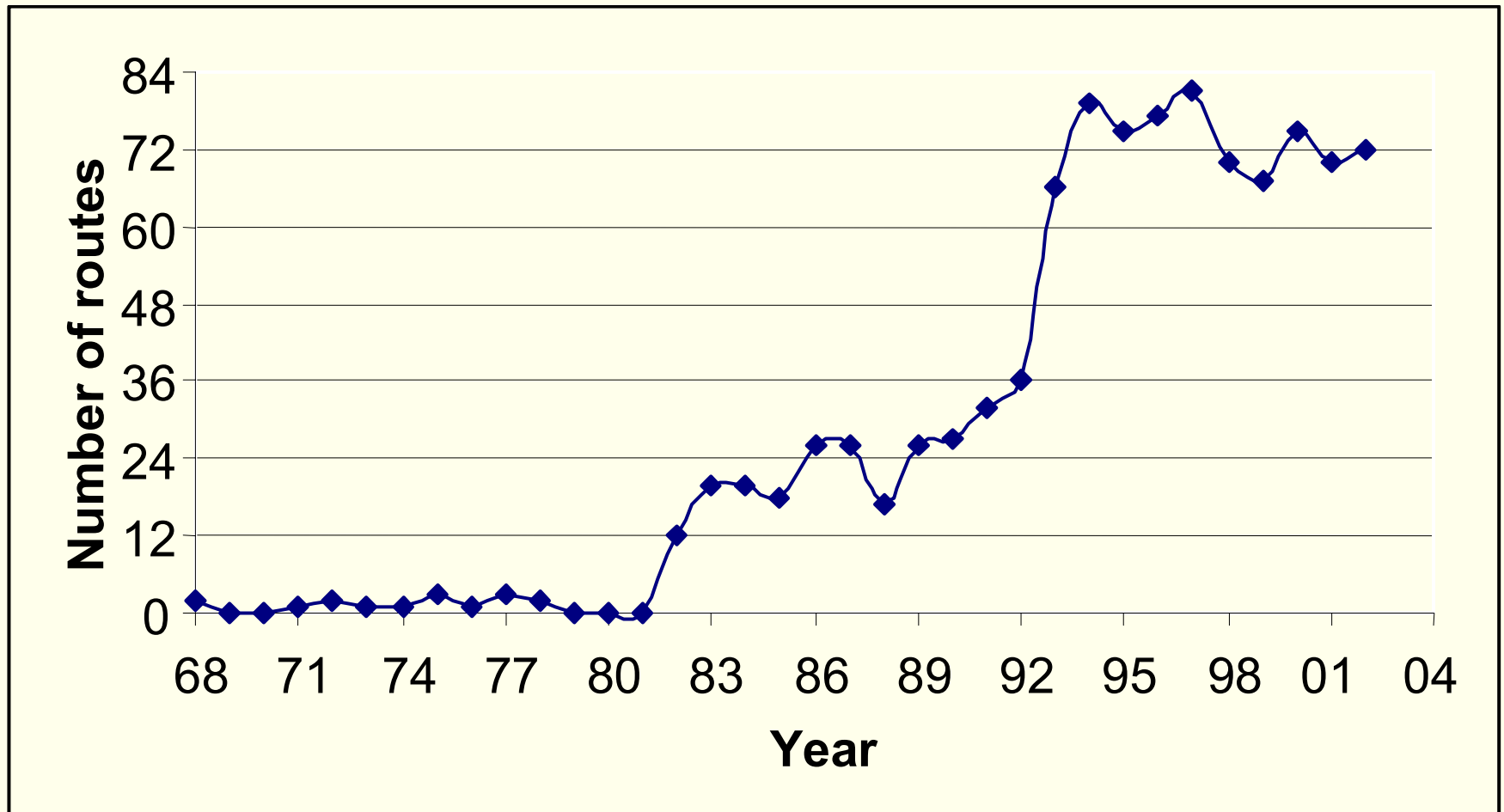
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Migratory Bird Management

Initial Goals

— 1992 —

- Increase coverage and consistency of the Breeding Bird Survey.
- Test methods for monitoring birds in roadless areas.
 - Off-road Point Count Program
- Combining data from BBS & ORPC to estimate population trend.

Increase coverage and consistency of the Breeding Bird Survey in Alaska



Data collection

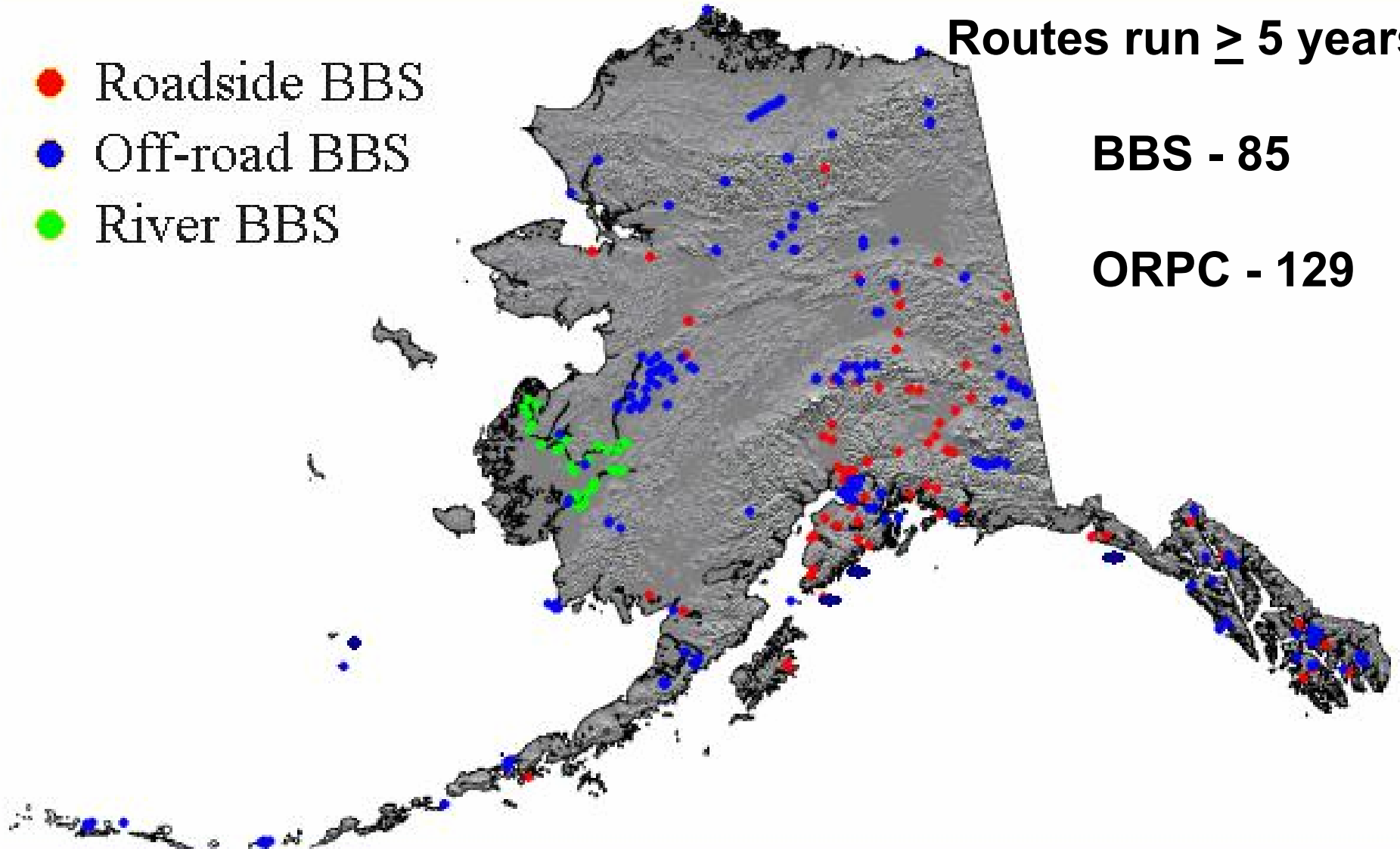
—1993-2002—

- Roadside BBS
- Off-road BBS
- River BBS

Routes run ≥ 5 years

BBS - 85

ORPC - 129



Negative trends from BBS

1980-2002

Species	Trend	<i>P</i>	<i>n</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	-2.8	0.06	37
Solitary Sandpiper	-4.1	0.02	20
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-3.3	0.09	49
Violet-green Swallow	-4.4	0.08	35
Winter Wren	-1.8	0.08	20
Blackpoll Warbler	-3.5	0.01	46
Fox Sparrow	-3.8	0.06	29
White-crowned Sparrow	-2.0	<0.01	68
Rusty Blackbird	-5.3	0.09	21

Objectives

1. Estimate temporal trends in population size for breeding birds in Alaska.
2. Compare trends from the roadside (BBS) and off-road (ORPC) programs.
3. Determine how precision in estimated trends is enhanced by jointly analyzing data.
4. Determine if there is spatial variation in trends among BCRs within Alaska.
5. Recommend future changes in sampling to increase detection of trends in population size.